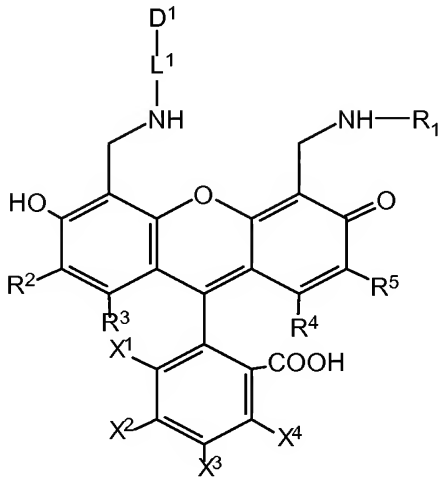
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-12 (cancelled)

Claim 13 (currently amended): A compound having the structure:



wherein:

D^1 is an acceptor dye selected from the group consisting of xanthine dyes, rhodamine dyes and cyanine dyes;

R^1 is selected from H, an amino-protecting group, the group $-L^2-R_x$ and the group

$-L^2-D^2$, where D^2 is a dye selected from the group consisting of xanthine dyes, rhodamine dyes and cyanine dyes;

R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 independently represent H, F, Cl, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 substituted alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, sulfonate, sulfone, amido, nitrile, aryl or heteroaryl; or R^2 and R^3 and/or R^4 and R^5 taken together may be linked to form a fused aromatic or heteroaromatic ring system;

X^1, X^2, X^3 and X^4 independently represent H, F, Cl, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkenyl, C_1-C_6 alkynyl, COOR', SO_3H, CH_2OH, the group $-L^3-R_x$ and the group $-L^3-D^3$, where D^3 is a dye selected from the group consisting of xanthine dyes, rhodamine dyes and cyanine dyes; and R' is selected from hydrogen and C_1-C_4 alkyl;

R_x is a target bonding group; and

L^1, L^2 and L^3 are each a linking group and each independently comprises a group containing from 1 to 40 linked atoms selected from carbon atoms which may optionally include one or more groups selected from –C(O)–, –C(S)–, –NR'–, –O–, –S–, –CR'=CR'– and –CO–NR'– groups, where R' is hereinbefore defined;

provided that either:

a) R^1 is the group $-L^2-D^2$; or

b) at least one of X^1, X^2, X^3 and X^4 is the group $-L^3-D^3$;

where L^2, L^3, D^2 and D^3 are hereinbefore defined.

Claim 14 (original): The compound according to claim 13 wherein said compound includes at least one target bonding group capable of forming a covalent bond with a target material.

Claim 15 (original): The compound according to claim 13 or 14 further comprising:

charge carrying or water solubilizing substituents covalently attached thereto, or

charge carrying and water solubilizing substituents covalently attached thereto,

said substituents being unreactive with said target bonding group.

Claim 16 (original): The compound according to claim 15 wherein said water solubilizing substituents are selected from the group consisting of amide, sulphonate, sulphate, phosphate, quaternary ammonium, hydroxyl, guanidinium and phosphonate.

Claim 17 (original): The compound according to claim 15 wherein said charge carrying substituents incorporate from two to five positively charged nitrogen atoms.

Claim 18 (original): The compound according to claim 13 wherein each of L^1, L^2 and L^3 independently contains from 1 to 20 atoms.

Claim 19 (original): The compound according to claim 13 wherein L^1, L^2 and L^3 are each independently:

$$-\{(CHR')_p-Q-(CHR')_r\}_s-$$

where Q is selected from: –CHR'–, –C(O)–, –C(S)–, –NR'–, –O–, –CR'=CR'– and –CO–NR'–; R' is hydrogen or C_1 – C_4 alkyl, each p is independently 0 – 5, each r is independently 0 – 5 and s is 1 or 2.

Claim 20 (original): The compound according to claim 19 wherein Q is selected from –CHR'–, –C(O)– and –CO–NH–, where R', p, r and s are hereinbefore defined.

Claim 21 (original): The compound according to claim 14 wherein said target bonding group comprises a reactive group for reacting with a functional group on a target material, or a functional group for reacting with a reactive group on a target material.

Claim 22 (original): The compound according to claim 21 wherein said reactive group is selected from the group consisting of N-hydroxysuccinimidyl ester, N-hydroxy-sulphosuccinimidyl ester, isothiocyanate, haloacetamide, dichlorotriazine, maleimide, sulphonyl halide, acyl halide, anhydride and phosphoramidite.

Claim 23 (original): The compound according to claim 21 wherein said functional group is selected from the group consisting of amino, hydroxyl, sulphydryl, and carboxyl groups.

Claim 24 (original): The compound according to claim 13 wherein said xanthine dye is selected from fluorescein, naphthofluorescein, rhodol and derivatives thereof.

Claim 25 (original): The compound according to claim 13 wherein said rhodamine dye is selected from 5-carboxyrhodamine (Rhodamine 110-5), 6-carboxyrhodamine (Rhodamine 110-6), 5-carboxyrhodamine-6G (R6G-5 or REG-5), 6-carboxyrhodamine-6G (R6G-6 or REG-6), N,N,N',N'-tetramethyl-5-carboxyrhodamine, N,N,N',N'-tetramethyl-6-carboxyrhodamine (TAMRA or TMR), 5-carboxy-X-rhodamine, 6-carboxy-X-rhodamine (ROX).

Claim 26 (original): The compound according to claim 13 wherein said cyanine dye is selected from Cy3 (3-(ε-carboxypentyl)-1'-ethyl-3, 3, 3', 3'-tetramethyl-5, 5'-disulphonato-carbocyanine), Cy3.5 (3-(ε-carboxypentyl)-1'-ethyl-3,3,3',3'-tetramethyl-4,5,4',5'-(1,3-disulphonato)dibenzo-carbocyanine), Cy5 (1-(ε-carboxypentyl)-1'-ethyl-3,3,3',3'-tetramethyl-5,5'-disulphonato-dicarbocyanine, Cy5.5 (1-(ε-carboxypentyl)-1'-ethyl-3,3,3',3'-tetramethyl-4,5,4',5'-(1,3-disulphonato)-dibenzo-dicarbocyanine, Cy7 (1-(ε-carboxypentyl)-1'-ethyl-3,3,3',3'-tetramethyl-5,5'-disulphonato-tricarbocyanine.

Claim 27 (original): The compound according to claim 14 wherein said target material is selected from the group consisting of: antibodies, lipids, proteins, peptides,

carbohydrates, nucleotides containing or are derivatized to contain one or more amino, sulphydryl, carbonyl, hydroxyl, carboxyl, phosphate or thiophosphate groups; oxy or deoxy polynucleic acids containing or are derivatized to contain one or more of an amino, sulphydryl, carbonyl, hydroxyl, carboxyl, phosphate or thiophosphate groups; microbial materials, drugs, hormones, cells, cell membranes and toxins.

Claim 28 (withdrawn): A method for labelling a target material comprising:

a) adding to a liquid containing said target material a fluorescent energy transfer reagent according to claim 13; and

b) incubating said reagent with said target material under conditions suitable for binding to and thereby labelling said target material.

Claim 29 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 28 wherein said target material is selected from the group consisting of: antibodies, lipids, proteins, peptides, carbohydrates, nucleotides containing or are derivatized to contain one or more amino, sulphydryl, carbonyl, hydroxyl, carboxyl, phosphate or thiophosphate groups; oxy or deoxy polynucleic acids containing or are derivatized to contain one or more amino, sulphydryl, carbonyl, hydroxyl carboxyl, phosphate or thiophosphate groups; microbial materials, drugs, hormones, cells, cell membranes and toxins.